



Directorate engineers contribute to workshop

by Francis L. Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — Three members of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate staff participated in the Secure Knowledge Management (SKM) 2004 Workshop Sept. 23-24 in Amherst, N.Y.

Dr. Kevin Kwiat of the directorate's Information Grid Division, and Robert Ehret and William McQuay of the directorate's Information Systems Division attended the event sponsored by the National Science Foundation, National Security Agency, AFRL and University at Buffalo/State University of New York Center of Excellence in Information Systems Assurance Research and Education.

The workshop defined knowledge management as the methodology for systematically gathering, organizing and disseminating information. It consists of processes and tools to effectively capture and share data as well as use the knowledge of individuals within an organization.

"Knowledge Management Systems promote sharing information among employees and should contain security features to prevent any unauthorized access," said Mr. McQuay, who joined Dr. Bhavani Thuraisingham of the National Science Foundation and Hun Kim of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as keynote speakers. "The purpose of SKM 2004 was to raise the awareness of academics and practitioners in this critical area of research and develop important questions that need to be tackled by the research community."

Approximately 120 researchers from industry, academia, and government attended the event, which included three keynote addresses, four plenary presentations and 26 papers across 11 sessions — which included one panel discussion and a poster session with eight papers. Sessions addressed access control and rights, trust and privacy, intrusion detection, secure content management, new security paradigms, and theoretical approaches to information assurance.

Mr. McQuay, who like Mr. Ehret is assigned to operations at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, was the day two keynote speaker and addressed "Collaborative Secure Knowledge Management." He summarized AFRL's SKM program, initiated under the Wright Brothers Institute in Ohio, to provide revolutionary and visionary technologies in information and knowledge creation and sharing.

Dr. Kwiat, of the directorate's Information Grid Division in Rome, was an organizing program committeeman, a referee for technical submissions, a session chairman and co-author of a presented paper entitled "Code Striping for Secure Knowledge Query."

"SKM efforts taking place in New York State were also presented at the workshop and were viewed as complementary to those in Ohio," Dr. Kwiat said. "It was agreed that the SKM contributors from each state should work together on future efforts." @